

Table I. Signs and Symptoms Related to Etiology of Mental Status Change

Sign/Symptom	Association
Asterixis	Metabolic encephalopathy
Ataxia	Ethanol or sedative intoxication, Wernicke encephalopathy
Bradycardia	Hypothyroidism, cholinergic drug
Meiosis	Opioid intoxication
Mydriasis	Head trauma, anticholinergic or sympathomimetic drug intoxication, ethanol or sedative withdrawal, post-ictal state
Fever	Infection, anticholinergic drug intoxication, ethanol withdrawal, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, thyroid storm, serotonin syndrome
Headache/Meningismus	Meningitis, subarachnoid hemorrhage
Hypertension	Hypertensive encephalopathy, anticholinergic or sympathomimetic drug intoxication, ethanol or sedative withdrawal, thyroid storm
Hyperventilation	Central neurogenic hyperventilation, hepatic encephalopathy, hyperglycemia with diabetic ketoacidosis, sepsis, uremia
Hypothermia	Sedative intoxication, hepatic encephalopathy, hypoglycemia, hypothyroidism, sepsis, uremia
Hypoventilation	Sedative or opioid intoxication
Nystagmus/ophthalmoplegia	Ethanol or sedative intoxication, Wernicke encephalopathy, vertebrobasilar ischemia, phenytoin
Papilledema	Hypertensive encephalopathy, intracranial mass, acute hydrocephalus
Rigidity	Neuroleptic malignant syndrome, opioid reaction, dystonic reaction
Seizures	Ethanol or sedative withdrawal, theophylline toxicity, hypoglycemia, severe alkalosis
Tachycardia	Anticholinergic or sympathomimetic drug intoxication, ethanol or sedative withdrawal, thyroid storm
Tremor	Sympathetic drug intoxication, ethanol or sedative withdrawal, thyrotoxicosis